MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JANUARY 1983

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reaction to Libyan-Syrian-Iranian Statement -- Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, Nuri Isma'il al-Wa'is, met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis and discussed the "serious results" of the recent Libyan-Syrian-Iranian statement issued in Damascus, INA reported. Al-Wa'is asked the Arab League to shoulder its responsibilities and take the "necessary steps" against the Syrian and Libyan regimes, which have allied themselves with a foreign country against an Arab state and member of the Arab League," INA added. Earlier, a 24 January Amman television commentary denounced the tripartite statement for undermining Arab unity, flagrantly announcing an alliance with a non-Arab country waging war against an Arab country, threatening Arab interests in the Gulf, and pretending steadfastness with the Palestinians while trying to conceal capitulation to the Israeli enemy in Lebanon.

PLO Affairs -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denounced the "Libyan statement" published by five Palestinian groups in Tripoli which criticized the Fes summit resolutions and the rapprochement among the PLO, Jordan, and Iraq, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meanwhile, in an AFP interview, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah chided 'Arafat for his contacts with Israelis and pro-American Arab states. 'Arafat defended his meeting with the Jewish delegation in Tunisia as within the framework of PNC decisions approving the development and deepening of relations with "democratic Jewish forces," San'a' Voice of Palestine radio noted citing remarks by 'Arafat in Aden. In another development Radio Monte Carlo reported that 'Arafat's adviser Hani al-Hasan recently met with Iranian Mohahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi in Paris and that the two sides expressed their joint desire to end the Iranian-Iraqi war as soon as possible.

Reaction to OPEC Meeting -- UAE Oil Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah affirmed that OPEC has not failed, although the consultative meeting in Geneva did not reach any agreement on the issues discussed, QNA reported. On his return to Abu Dhabi, Al-'Utaybah announced that the UAE will produce 1.6 million barrels of oil per day, QNA added. Meanwhile, the Saudi paper ARAB NEWS blamed "greed and shortsightedness" for the meeting's failure and expressed fear that a "deadly price war" could develop, according to SPA. A Riyadh radio commentary noted that the "present situation" confirms the credibility of Saudi oil policy, which is based on a realistic, logical, and moderate view. The commentary noted the Kingdom's sacrifices in order to save OPEC unity and criticized the recent behavior of "some OPEC members' that resulted in the failure of the meeting's participants to reach agreement.

OMAN-PDRY Border Talks -- The committee established to settle the border dispute between Oman and the PDRY held its first meeting in Abu Dhabi, WAKH reported. Kuwaiti and UAE delegations participated along with the PDRY and Omani delegations. The Omani delegation head said afterward that the PDRY and Oman had shown a definite desire to reach agreement and had "come a long way" in the talks. The PDRY delegation leader likewise affirmed that his country intends to end all reasons for disputes with Oman, according to another WAKH report.

Syria

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's "rabid and treacherous campaign" against Syria is concomitant with Israel's "continuing clamor" against Syria's air defense installations, TISHRIN declared in an editorial reported by SANA. Both countries share the common objective of striking at Syria's military force and inciting its internal

enemies to sow sedition and strife, TISHRIN asserted. However, Syria is "stronger than ever," the paper added, and its "elements of power" have developed qualitatively and quantitatively and are too great to be harmed or weakened by enemies.

Egypt

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stated that Egypt will not resume the peace talks unless "their scope is expanded" with the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, MENA reported. Ghali also announced that President Husni Mubarak will urge the U.S. Administration to adopt a "more resolute stand" on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, MENA added. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali received Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and discussed developments in the West Bank and Gaza Snrip as well as the future of the Palestinian people, according to MENA.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- IDF checks revealed that U.S. Marines are positioned at three points that should be under IDF control, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon accused "certain elements" of intentional exaggeration in the presentation of incidents between the Marines and IDF soldiers, according to ITIM. Beirut radio reported that President Amin al-Jumayyil discussed Israeli "provactions" of the U.S. forces during a meeting of the political committee of the multinational force's higher liaison body.

Joint Subcommittees -- The Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. subcommittees did not meet on 25 January because of a Lebanese-Israeli dispute about the venue for their meetings, Beirut radio noted.

Afghanistan

Afghan Defense Minister General Abdol Qader visited Mazar-e Sharif, which is surrounded by Soviet and Afghan troops due to the "tense" situation after rebels recently captured 15 Soviet advisers there, AFP reported citing Western diplomats in Islamabad. AFP added that "only known partisans of the regime" are allowed to leave the city while Soviet patrols have stepped up house-to-house searches. In another development Soviet authorities recently tried to reach a truce with resistance leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who controls the strategic Panjshir Valley, according to AFP. The group met with Mas'ud's deputy and tried in vain to propose an end to the bombardment of Panjshir Valley as well as financial reparations in return for Mas'ud's agreement to a cease-fire, AFP noted.

Iran

The Majlis should enact legislation that the National Council of Guardians is likely to approve, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told Majlis deputies in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio. Asserting that the Council of Guardians does not reject bills without reason, he warned that the government should avoid putting "pressure" on the people. Revolution guards should act responsibly so as not to become unpopular with the people, he added.

Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi subsequently briefed deputies on next year's budget in a speech broadcast by the radio. The economy is growing again, he said, and inflation is falling.

DAILY REPORT

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DOST COMMENTS ON CORDOVEZ' MEDIATION EFFORTS

LD252328 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's special envoy, is having talks in Pakistan. The subject of his talks is the peaceful settlement of the questions in dispute concerning Afghanistan. The diplomat is to visit Kabul in the near future. What does the Afghan Government expect from Cordovez' mediating mission? Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, granted an interview on this in Kabul last week to our correspondent Miklos Keleti.

[Begin recording -- Dost in English fading into superimposed Hungarian translation] We hope that as a result of this mission direct talks may take place with Iran and, above all, with Pakistan. This would represent a considerable step forward, after all, without the presence of a mediator. We would be able to sit at the same negotiating table and carry on more substantive talks.

[Keleti] If the representatives of Pakistan and Iran are prepared to sit at the same table with the representative of the current Afghan Government, this would amount to recognition of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, that is to say, something that at the present time both Iran and Pakistan refuse to do. First and foremost, because recognition of the Kabul government would also entail acceptance of the fact that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is a matter exclusively for the Afghan and Soviet Governments. Thus, the demand for the unconditional withdrawal of forces would become untenable.

[Dost] We do not consider formal diplomatic recognition to be of primary importance. Of course, it is another question that our neighbors will, sooner or later, have to recognize the Afghan Government. The main problem at present is the fact that an unnatural tension prevails over the region and this state of affairs will have to be brought to an end as soon as possible. The armed men trained in Pakistani camps endanger Afghanistan's internal calm, it certainly exists in practice -- is also dangerous for Pakistan because the region of the country that borders on Afghanistan is slipping more and more out of the control of the Islamabad government.

[Keleti] Do you, therefore, consider that Pakistan, too, has an interest in a negotiated settlement of the problems?

[Dost] General Ziaul Haq said both after his visits to Moscow and to Washington that he is a supporter of a peaceful settlement by negotiation. However, I would like to call attention to the fact that substantial American and Saudi Arabian pressure is being exerted on Pakistan. At present, Washington and Riyadh are interested in preserving the Afghan problem as a source of tension that can be exploited. However, if in spite of all this, Pakistan is ready for some kind of compromise, this will have to be brought to light unequivocally in the course of Mr Cordovez' mediating mission. [end recording]

TROOPS SURROUND CITY, SEARCH FOR SOVIET ADVISERS

BK251510 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 25 Jan 83

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 25 (AFP) -- Soviet and Afghan troops have surrounded the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif where the situation remains tense after some 15 Soviet civilian advisors were captured there by rebels earlier this month, Western diplomats disclosed here today.

Citing information received from the Afghan capital Kabul, they said only known partisans of the regime are permitted to leave Mazar-e Sharif while Soviet patrols have stepped up searches of individual houses.

A number of women are reported to have been detained by Soviet authorities and held hostage in an effort to obtain information on the kidnapped advisors.

No precise details have been given on the fate of the captives, who according to Soviet sources here were civilian technicians at a large flour mill. But reports of systematic house-to-house searches and the strict control clamped on Mazar-e Sharif suggest that Soviet authorities believe they are still being held in the city.

Two resistance groups, the Jami'at-e Islami and the Haraqat, have each claimed responsibility for the abductions.

Diplomatic sources here said that Afghan defense minister, General Abdol Qader, who rarely leaves his headquarters, visited Mazar-e Sharif January 21.

In the capital, meanwhile, resistance groups have remained active despite difficult winter conditions, they said.

The fortress of Bala-Hissar, which rises above the old city and where only Soviet troops were quartered, was reportedly attacked with rockets on the evening of January 20, setting fire to a nearby munitions depot.

Two days earlier, Western diplomats reported, two boys, aged 11 and 12, were found frozen to death outside a petrol station in the city center where they had waited throughout the night for the distribution of heating oil to begin. Supplies of motor fuel, however, are said to have improved with the arrival during the week of a convoy of Soviet tankers.

Protecting the convoys coming from the Soviet Union is a constant preoccupation of authorities in Kabul who have apparently begun to close off the road from the capital to Jalalabad in the east whenever a convoy is using it. The move has reportedly been taken to forestall ambushes by resistance forces alerted to the movement of Soviet trucks by civilian drivers.

SOVIET TRUCE ATTEMPT WITH REBEL LEADER CITED

BK251445 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 25 (AFP) -- Soviet authorities recently tried to reach a truce with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the young resistance leader who controls the strategic Panjshir Valley north of Kabul, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

A delegation of Soviet military advisors, accompanied by Mr Mas'ud's uncle, Colonel Abdul Razak, travelled to the valley to arrange a meeting between Mr Mas'ud and Mahmud Barialay, the brother of Afghan President Babrak Karmal, sources said.

Fearing a trap, Mr Mas'ud refused the offer of negotiations and sent a deputy to meet the delegation. The group reportedly tried in vain to propose an end to the bombardment of the valley and a commitment to finance reparation of damages caused by six straight offensives in return for an agreement by Mr. Mas'ud to abide by a ceasefire.

Diplomats here said the truce offer meant the Panjshir region was far from being brought under control and that Soviet and Afghan authorities were growing anxious over the influence of "Commander" Mas'ud outside the valley, most notably on the Shomali Plateau that leads into Kabul.

A French journalist, who spent the month of December in the Panjshir Valley, has said the morale of the population and the resistance forces there was holding, despite daily bombings of the villages. The journalist reported that 90 percent of the homes in the valley have been destroyed, forcing 40 percent of the population to seek refuge in neighboring regions adjacent to Kabul.

BULGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD241953 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] A delegation of the Bulgarian Communist Party led by Chudomir Aleksandrov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and first secretary of the Sofia City Party Committee, today arrived in Kabul at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee.

At Kabul International Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Kabul City Party Committee; Mehraboddin Paktiawal, chairman of Afghan-Bulgarian Friendship Committee; deputy chairman of the international relations sections of the PDPA Central Committee; representatives of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Kabul.

RATEBZAD RECEIVES RSFSR DELEGATION 25 JANUARY

LD260036 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization, held discussions with a high-ranking RSFSR party and state delegation this afternoon in her office.

During this meeting, which was attended by deputies and members of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization Presidium, views were exchanged in a cordial and friendly atmosphere on further strengthening the fraternal friendship between the people, parties, and especially the friendship societies of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

NIGERIA'S SHAGARI ARRIVES, MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

BK250930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] India and Nigeria have expressed their common desire to strengthen mutual friendship and cooperation. They expressed their resolve to work together in partnership to build a better world. President Giani Zail Singh and visiting Nigerian head of state Alhaji Shehu Shagari in their airport speeches today referred to the common bonds of membership shared by the two countries in the Nonaligned Movement.

The Nigerian president arrived in New Delhi this morning to a ceremonial welcome. He was received at the airport by President Giani Zail Singh, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, and some of her Cabinet colleagues. Twenty-one guns boomed in salute as the Nigerian president stepped out of his special plane. He was presented an interservices guard of honor.

Welcoming the visiting president, Giani Zail Singh said India has a close multidimensional relationship with Nigeria, which is the fourth largest democracy and the most populous country in Africa. He said India and Nigeria have a similar approach on matters of international importance. We look forward to fruitful discussion on matters of common interest, he added.

In his reply, President Shagari commended India's great stride in agricultural and industrial fields and said the two countries can work together in partnership. He said he has come to offer friendship and cooperation.

Later, Shagari called on Giani Zail Singh. The meeting lasted 1/2 hour. During his stay in the capital, he will also meet the vice president and the prime minister. He is scheduled to have talks with the external affairs minister and other central ministers. The Nigerian president will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. This is the first visit of a head of state from Nigeria.

Talks With Gandhi

BK251700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] President Alhaji Shehu Shagari of Nigeria and Mrs Indira Gandhi had a broad exchange of views in New Delhi today on various international issues, particularly the economic situation and the need for South-South cooperation. The meeting was held without aides and lasted 75 minutes.

At his talks with Mrs Gandhi, the Nigerian leader expressed his confidence that the Nonaligned Movement ould develop and acquire further strength under India's leadership. Both of them expressed satisfaction at the development of bilateral relations and attached the highest importance to the increased trade and transfer of technology. They also discussed the situation in South Africa and Namibia.

Delegations of the two countries led by their Foreign Ministers Ishaya Audu and Narasimha Rao had detailed discussions separately. They agreed that the two countries can expand and diversify their economic relations. They felt that they can cooperate in small-scale industries and in joint ventures.

In the political field, both countries deplored the attempt by the South African regime to wean away the Colored and the people of Indian origin from their solidarity with the African people. The racist regime of Pretoria has been using the device of what are called Presidential Councils to alienate the Colored and Asian people from the Africans. The two countries also expressed the view that support to SWAPO should be stepped up and expressed concern that the situation in Namibia is getting worse.

The Indian side included the commerce minister, Shiv Raj Patil, and Minister of State for Energy Vikram Mahajan. From the Nigerian side, the ministers for agriculture, commerce, and information took part.

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON AKALI PROBLEM

BK251340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government is holding talks with the Akali leaders in an effort to solve their problems. Addressing a group of Sikhs who had called on her in New Delhi this morning, Mrs Gandhi expressed the hope that the Akalis would accept the government's suggestion. The prime minister said the paramount challenge before the country is development and improving the lot of the people. She said millions of people have risen above the poverty line and this led to more (?demands).

Referring to the demands of the Akalis, Mrs Gandhi said it is not easy to take a decision on some of their demands as other parties are also involved. Their views had also to be heard and examined, she added.

AKALI TALKS END; 'AGREEMENT IN SIGHT'

BK260441 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The tripartite talks between the center, the opposition leaders, and the Akali Dal delegation ended in New Delhi yesterday with broad areas of agreement in sight on many demands. The date of the next meeting will be fixed in consultation with Akali leaders and the opposition.

Home Minister P.C. Sethi later told newsmen that the government hopes that in view of the progress at the talks the Akalis would withdraw their agitation. The opposition leaders also requested the Akali leaders to reconsider their decision about the agitation program on Thursday next. Sethi said discussions covered the Rabi-Beas River water dispute and territorial issues.

Agency reports say the Akali high command is meeting in Amritsar today. It will discuss the opposition leaders request to reconsider their decision to submit resignations of their members from all elected bodies tomorrow.

PARAMILITARY TROOPS CALLED INTO AMRITSAR

BK260939 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan. 26 (AFP) -- Paramilitary border security force (BSF) troops have been called into the Sinkh holy city of Amritsar in Punjab, where at least four bombs exploded early today, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The explosions and several arson incidents occurred as the federal administration announced fresh concessions for a settlement with the Sikhs demanding autonomy for India's northern Punjab state.

It was, however, not known immediately whether the BSF forces were called in in the wake of fresh violence or as a precaution against further violence.

MANIPUR SECURITY TIGHTENED AFTER HIJACK THREAT

BK251101 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 25 (AFP) -- Authorities in Manipur have tightened security arrangements in the state capital Imphal and neighbouring areas following a threat by extremists to hijack domestic aircraft, it was reported today.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said in a dispatch from Imphal that an underground organisation codenamed "Triple X" demanded removal of what they called "corrupt officials and ministers" in the state administration by tomorrow, India's Republic Day anniversary.

An official statement in Imphal quoted by the agency said the government would "foil such anti-national acts" and announced a 500 rupees reward (about 55 U.S. dollars) to anyone giving information on the "lawless elements." The statement asked for the people's cooperation in making the Republic Day celebrations in the capital a success.

PTI said the extremists earlier circulated a pamphlet threatening to "kidnap" airline officials if air services there were not stopped. However, no deadline was set.

The northeastern frontier state is ruled by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

STATE SHIPPING, TRANSPORT MINISTER RESIGNS

BK251409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Minister of State for Shipping and Transport Sita Ram Kesri has announced that he has resigned from the Central Council of Ministers. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that he has done this to strengthen the party.

SOVIET GREETINGS ON REPUBLIC DAY CITED

BK251448 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The Soviet Union has said that further strengthening of bonds of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and India is in the interest of global peace. In a message of greetings to the president and the prime minister on the occasion of Republic Day, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have complimented India for the big success it has achieved in various spheres. The message also refers to consistent efforts India has been making for the prevention of war and to help in disarmament.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES MAJLIS DEPUTIES 24 JANUARY

GF250924 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni speech to Majlis deputies on 24 January -- recorded, duration 36 minutes]

[Excerpts] There is little doubt that this Majlis is one of the best parliaments existing in the world; it is the best Majlis since the inception of constitutionalism up until now. Undoubtedly, most of you now better understand the conditions prevailing in the earlier times. This Majlis, when compared to the other such parliaments during the whole period of constitutionalism, is unique because almost all of its members have marked convictions that Islam should rule. Such a parliament could not have been formed at any previous time.

Now, regarding elections, I have been observing from within my own sphere since I was a child, and even after observing from other places, that elections were never totally in the control of the people. For a long time, elections had been controlled by influencial people in the territory like Khans, big landowners, and similar people. And even later when their influence had waned, their control was maintained in the form of the contemporary government. For example, if in Tehran, one or two people or a number of people were elected as the choice of the people, (?all were not in fact the choice of the people), because Tehran was in the position where it could not be pressured by the people. However, in places other than Tehran, the people had no say in the matter. This meant that we never had a true national parliament at any given time. Although in a sense, there might have been a few true representatives of the people present in the Majlis, the Majlis itself was never a national parliament.

However, today in the present Majlis, we observe an Islamic shura and a national body which is apparent from its correct nature. I have little doubt about this. However, apart from few exceptions, which are very rare indeed, all deputies have good intentions and I in no way disagree with this. Also the Majlis is the focus of all other organs of the state and the Majlis is, in fact, the nation itself in microcosm. This is also a fact. Now so far as these aspects are concerned, I agree with all you gentlemen and am in agreement with the Majlis as it exists.

However, no person, no organization, no individual can claim that he has no defects. Or if somebody did make such a claim, then it would be his greatest defect. There is nobody who can make the claim that he is without any defects. There may exist people that might not have many defects. However, we have no perfect people in this world. We must always be aware of our own defects, that is, any possible defects. Any man who wants to work for God and attain the status of a humanitarian should always be aware of his defects. He should not just take into consideration his good points. Because by watching out for one's defects, a man can possibly choose the right path. However, if he is only aware of his good points, his vision might become blurred and he may not be able to see his own defects.

I believe, as of course all of you believe, that the Majlis is representative of the whole nation and since it is the result of the votes of all the nation, this Majlis has no justification except that of Islam. Even if other religions as well demand a quality of honesty, they also seek the pleasure of God. You should also in this sense keep in mind that you are serving the will of God and the principles of Islam. This must be grasped foremost of all.

Men sometimes have different views, and the Majlis also may reflect different viewpoints since people may form different views on the same issue. However, even though the views might differ, all want Islam. Also, the whole community wants Islam. However, views on Islam also might differ. You are aware that there are many intellectuals among us, the educated people among us, who claim to understand Islam. However, they are misinformed about Islam. They fail to see Islam in its true light as they might. They choose one aspect of the subject and they do understand problems within that area, but the many other existing aspects of Islam get very little of their attention. This is what causes the appearance of different viewpoints. I believe, and of course I take it that you also so believe, that when the Majlis passes a law, the National Council of Guardians should also accept it without objections. You do understand that the people want Islam. They want honesty. They seek the pleasure of God. The struggle, the long struggle in which all the people in Iran have participated, during this long period, and which even today continues at the war fronts, and behind the war fronts, has been and is for Islam and God. We should remember that their concern for the Majlis, which is on behalf of Islam, should be taken into consideration. This aspect of the matter does not concern the Majlis alone; it also concerns the government.

All people who are engaged in some kind of work in the government should pay attention to this point so that all people adhere to Islam. The people will not tolerate any deviation among the people so engaged, however minor the deviation might be. We should in the name of God work for the people. For it is the people who toppled the previous satanic parliaments and who have formed today's Islamic Majlis. They have released from prisons many who had been imprisoned. (?They freed those detained in detention centers.) All these things were done by the people. We cannot claim that I did these things or you did these things. Society did these things with the power given them by the Almighty God. God set up this society and blessed it so that this society took the path of Islam with such fervor that it struggled, losing all, until that regime and the people who had supported that regime, were ousted and an Islamic Republic was founded. And so, the people expect Islam. If, God forbid, in the Majlis, not because of bad intentions, but because of a lack of understanding, a group might believe that the capitalist school of thought is better than, for example, the communist way of thinking, and another group might believe the opposite is right, then each group looks into Islam to find out where this subject has been touched in Islam. Instead of looking at the whole issue of the problem, they seek an answer in a very limited scope.

However, all those people who have good intentions, who want to serve the state and Islam, might at times by not looking at the whole picture of a problem, might choose a way that they might think is the way of Islam and fail to see other aspects of the subject. For this reason, what I desire is this: that we and you, who are at the center of lawmaking and have the most important position and also others who are in this arena, should not be influenced by any school of thought. I don't mean that all of you have been so influenced. But it is possible that a number might be so influenced. To avoid being under the influence of propaganda from this side or that side, we should take the straight path of Islam and should have Islamic studies and learn from those who have an understanding of Islam to find out how far capitalism is tolerated within Islam, what Islam says regarding it, or whether Islam accepts the communist way.

If we are influenced by a deviationist school of thought, we would be for forsaking Islam. We have good intentions. We want what is good for the nation. The question is what is to be done today. If we want to strengthen Islam, we should decide what is to be done today. If not all aspects of the problem are understood, then we must find out what Islam has said about the matter before we can arrive at the correct answer. What Islam has said has been said from God. We cannot imagine that God would not have looked at every aspect of any problem, those problems a nation or a society might be called to solve, or that He should have suggested that a certain matter is to be handled in this way or that. In fact, God has provided for changes in conditions. The secondary provisions have been ordained for the very reason that problems may arise in a particular society which would require the help of these secondary provisions. These are also ordinances from God -- the secondary provisions from God.

We should remain alert when we consider voting on a certain bill or proposal; we should make sure that we are not under the influence of this or that school of thought prevailing in the world. We should be under the influence of the Koran, the teachings of the prophet of Islam, peace be upon him. [cheers]

If it occurs that matters are decided speedily and expeditiously, the people will look at you very closely. If it happens 10 times that one group in the majority may think one way and another group in minority might think the opposite, and the National Council of Guardians rejects the majority view, and it happens a few times, the people will feel aggrieved. It is possible, God forbid, that in that case the attitude of the people toward you might change. And this is one of the greatest dangers that the Islamic Majlis faces and also Islam. The Greatest danger is this: that one day the nation might turn away from the government. Nobody else can make the nation turn away. America might say something obscene about our Majlis and the government, or about individuals, but it will have no effect. In fact, these organizations and persons get greater respect from the people. On the other hand, if deviationists say anything against you, it is good for you. The real problem would come when they started praising you. If America, as I have been saying from the very beginning, it does not know how to approach the problem, praises you for something or supports you over some matter, the people begin to suspect that there is some catch because it is being praised by America. We pray to God that they will continue to remain ignorant.

However, if the people discover that those they have sent to the Majlis, whom they thought were honest, are voting for things which the members in the National Council of Guardians end up rejecting because of antagonism, the people will begin to have doubts.

You should be under no influence except your own convictions, and not be under the influence of any school of thought prevailing in the world. Your objective should be the Koran, the teachings of Islam, and Islamic traditions. I may be in the matter of principal ordinances of secondary provisions. If you follow this, the National Council of Guardians will not reject your bills. (?I have fears that for some time now you have not been considering the effects of your votes and this may have created doubts among the people. This danger does exist for the government. If the government puts pressure on the people, if the government puts pressure on the people who have been on the s ene, the people like those in the bazaars, and [words indistinct].

If the government annoys all these people, by increasing taxes without reason or by using pressure for realizing revenues, or by instituting fines on some things, without justification, or the rulings of judges create doubts among the people, that day would be a black day for us. If that happens, neither the war would succeed, nor the Majlis or the government would be able to function. When that happens we should be prepared to say the funeral prayer.

You gentlemen should tackle the issues so that the National Council of Guardians will approve, or if it does reject something, it does so only once or twice a year. For example, you debate, discuss, argue about, a matter for a month, and finalize it, and the National Council of Guardians in a few days' time rejects it because it thinks it is against shari'a, that it is incompatible with Islam, or that it is against the Constitution. Remember that this reflects on the Majlis. It creates danger for us because it might create the impression among the people that the [deputies] are inattentive or confused. That their view is not as it should be. [Words indistinct] people should believe that these gentlemen have good intentions and are determined. Of course, it is not expected that all of them should have one view regarding a certain matter and all should be unanimous.

It should be, that even if you have differences among yourselves over a certain issue, it should be like the difference between two scholars. This kind of difference would be acceptable to the people and it would be acceptable to the National Council of Guardians as well. (?One should not think that the National Council of Guardians rejects something without a reason), because when it says that it is against Islam then it is so. The council does not say it is against my ruling or your ruling. It says that this is against Islam. If such state of affairs continues and is repeated, it is a danger in your path and it is a danger for all. And if the government continues to pursue this course and places pressure on the people, oppresses the bazaar, the government should well know that its funeral prayer would be read soon.

It is essential to get the attention of the people. When the holy prophet was drawing the attention of the people, he did so because he wanted the people's attention. He wanted the people to become attentive about what was right. We should, and the government should, pursue the same objective.

Also, the army and the revolution guards should have the same objective. If, God forbid, certain revolution guards engage in "youthful" acts and do something which throws things into imbalance, and such acts are repeated, God forbid, the people will turn away from them and they will become unpopular with the people. This would be a calamity indeed. You should not think that it is the military power that protects you. It is the power of faith that is preserving you and this nation among nations. This backing, this support, should be preserved. If, God forbid, we lost this backing at some time, we will all be removed.

Islam also involves such complications. We are today working for Islam and the Koran. We are working for all the prophets. We should act according to their opinions.

The revolution guards who are the most dear people in this country should think and preserve their popularity and love that they receive. If it is not preserved, it will be lost. And it can be preserved if they take the path of Islam. The courts should follow the Islamic path. [Words indistinct] if somebody has committed a mistake he should be told so. If somebody has committed a crime he should be treated according to Islamic law.

In the end, all of us, and all in the government and all persons who are engaged in governmental work, or the services of the Islamic Republic, should protect their image before the people. This image can only be protected if they follow the dictates of Islam, both in the primary and in the secondary provisions, if in the event it is decided that a certain matter falls under the secondary provisions of laws. However, these decisions should be reached after correct analysis. One man comes and says that there is an emergency and that such and such should be done. Another group says there is no such emergency. Must we always follow those who plead emergency although they may be in a majority? You should act in a way that the National Council of Guardians would support and the Majlis should also clearly vote that the matter is indeed an emergency. They should consult informed people. Gentlemen, this is the way we should follow in Islam. (?You should base your actions on your shar'ia judgment and commonsense). If the people should spill out onto the streets and begin shouting against us, shout against certain people, it will be a calamity.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,194

LD251734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,194 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The activities of our combatants on the country's southern fronts, including consolidation of their defensive positions and firing on enemy bunkers, continued yesterday. As a result of our unit's alertness, enemy infiltration and reconnaissance operations were foiled in the Sharhani and Zubaydat sectors. Our forces opened fire on the Iraqi groups, killing a number of them while the remainder fled.

At 1830 yesterday, the enemy opened artillery fire on one of our units on the southern front and, by using its infantry, pretended to launch an offensive. However, the enemy was confronted by the forces of Islam and after suffering losses and casualties, it was forced to retreat.

Our artillery fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud in the Abadan sector destroyed four slit trenches and observation posts and killed a number of Saddamists. Sporadic enemy long-range artillery fire on Abadan destroyed three houses and wounded three of our compatriots.

Our combative warriors on the western front yesterday also continued to defend the regions under their protection. Our warriors' intense fire set ablaze one enemy motor vehicle parking lot and destroyed several trenches along with their troops.

As a result of the surface-to-air fire and the tactics of the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all enemy air activities, including intrusions and reconnaissance flights, were repulsed in time yesterday.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

OIL MINISTER RETURNS FROM OPEC MEETING 25 JAN

LD261002 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 26 (IRNA) -- Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi returned to Tehran last night with the delegation he was heading to the OPEC meeting in Geneva.

The meeting in Geneva ended without any agreement on the oil price and production quotas of the member countries.

COMMENTARY VIEWS DAMASCUS MEETING SIGNIFICANCE

GF241643 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary: "What Does the Historic Damascus Meeting Mean"]

[Excerpts] During this grave historical period through which the Islamic and Arab world is passing, the historical Damascus meeting with Iranian-Syrian-Libyan participation was considered a major turning point in the history of the real Islamic Arab struggle to repulse the imperialist-Zionist attack against the region's peoples and to mark a new era of positive, constructive, and strategic revolutionary coordination among Iran, Syria, and Libya to escalate the struggle against the plots of the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary axis in the region.

In fact, this revolutionary initiative came as a result of the most savage aggressive attack the Islamic Arab world has seen during the past centuries, it can be said that this attack is more grave than the crusades which the Islamic and Arab world faced directly. Our Islamic and Arab world indirectly is witnessing the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary attack through a Kissinger-style, step-by-step policy which is being shrouded by a wave of secret warnings to deal the final blow to the region's peoples at the right moment.

The significance of the Damascus meeting also lies in the fact that it will push the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to escalate its revolutionary activities to attain the goals which it established after the disgraceful visit of the buried pharoah, Anwar as-Sadat, to occupied Palestine. Besides, the Damascus meeting incumbent in view of the latest developments in the region, which is witnessing conspiratorial diplomatic and political moves by the archsatan, the United States, and its allies of small satans, the reactionary rulers, who are primarily intended to beleaguer the Islamic and Arab region and tighten the siege around it in preparation to tie it to the imperialistic and Zionist wheel through the series of Camp David agreements.

Iran's participation in the historical Damascus meeting is a manisfestation of the responsibility the Government of the Islamic Revolution in Iran is shouldering toward the Islamic nation and Arab brothers. In truth, this participation is not something new in the Islamic Revolution's policy. During the period since Prime Minister Brother Mir-Hoseyn Musavi has been in charge of the Foreign Ministry, he has called for the formation of an anti-imperialist-Zionist Islamic Steadfastness Front. Nowadays, when reactionary and treacherous rulers are blatantly escalating their hectic activities to tie themselves to the wheel of Camp David, a reply came from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Libya on repulsing these hectic activities.

The statement issued after the historical Damascus meeting by the Iranian, Syrian, and Libyan foreign ministers underlined the serious situation resulting from the aggressive war Saddam at-Tikriti has launched, a thing which exposed the nature of the Baghdad rulers who tried to fuel sectarianism between Iran and the fraternal Arab countries and tried to depict this war as an Arab-Persian war. However, they failed in these attempts and their plotting turned against them.

The significance of the Damascus meeting lies in its stress on the need to counter the treacherous Zionist occupation of Lebanon, in other words, countering the plot to change the political and geographical map of the region. The stacement also emphasized the cohesion and solidarity of all their forces with fraternal Syria to repulse the imperialist-Zionist attack.

There is not the least doubt that the Tehran meeting will be a historical meeting which will witness decisive resolutions establishing the unified Islamic front, God willing.

JERUSALEM RESERVE COMPANY COMPLETES TRAINING

GF181630 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Summary from poor reception] The first company of the Jerusalem Reserve Force Battalions of Esfahan and Chahr Mahal Bakhtiari were dispatched for duty at the fronts of truth against the blasphemy of Saddam after completion of their military and political training.

SHIRAZ DECREE OFFICE RECEIVES 2,200 COMPLAINTS

GF231917 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] To date, 2,200 complaints have been registered with the delegation for enforcement of the decrees of the imam of the nation in the city of Shiraz. According to a report by the Central News Unit, this delegation announced its readiness to receive complaints in Shiraz on 18 January and had received 2,200 complaints by 22 January. The delegation dispatched by the headquarters for enforcing the decrees of the imam of the nation to Fars Province extended the time to receive complaints to 1 February, announcing that only complaints sent to Post Box 949 will be accepted. According to the same report, 500 complaints out of the 2,200 received have been investigated. A large number of these dealt with issues outside the framework of the 8-point decree and those who registered the complaints will be advised about which authority to see. The delegation will go to all the cities of the province at opportune times with prior announcement.

BRIEFS

REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL -- The arrival in Lisbon of three Iranian refugees may be the beginning of a "wave" that could take place in the next few months, since Portugal, at present, is the only country allowing Iranian nationals to enter without a visa. Until recently, Iranian refugees went to various countries; a few are already settled here. The Lisbon delegation of the UN High Commission for Refugees is still awaiting the arrival of two young Iranians and their mother who reportedly left Geneva on 12 January for Portugal after they had been refused entry into Spain. Spain stopped accepting refugees 3 weeks ago. [Text] [Lisbon O JORNAL in Portuguese 14 Jan 83 p 13 WA]